

Golf course, pro shop getting facelifts

Stuttgart facility to remain open during enhancement work

By Christie Lawler
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The Stuttgart Golf Course, acclaimed as one of the Army's finest courses in Europe, is getting even better.

The 18-hole championship course is undergoing a facelift to bring customers a better course and a brighter pro shop.

The facility already offers plenty of amenities, including a pro shop, two putting greens, a driving range and a pitching green.

Also, the pro shop restaurant specializes in Italian food and offers a lunch and dinner menu. Golfers and diners alike can enjoy their meal on the terrace, which has an excellent view of the course.

Constructed in 1957, the course sits on 300 acres and is considered one of the most beautiful courses in Germany. Manager Marco Spellacy said the 7,000-yard-long course provides a challenge to its players with more than 1,000 trees and almost 50 bunkers.

"It's considered by many to have the best layout of any military course in Europe," Spellacy boasted.

"With generously wide fairways and four sets of tee boxes, it plays fairly, challenging the good player but not punishing the average golfer," he said.

And he should know. Spellacy brings knowledge and skill to his position as the facility's PGA professional, having spent two years playing on the PGA European Tour in the mid-80s.

The first part of the course to undergo improvement is the irrigation system. The good news for golfers, Spellacy said, is that the course will remain open during this phase of construction.

"Only one hole at a time will be closed, and only when working around the greens," he said. "The rest of the time we can turn them into par three[s]."

Spellacy said the interior renovation will almost double the size of the pro shop.

In addition to new carpeting, doors, walls, ceilings and windows, the shop will also feature a new lounge area on the restaurant patio with an overhead extension to keep



Hugh C. McBride

While golfers hone their strokes on the nearby putting green, Stuttgart Golf Course Manager Marco Spellacy conducts a youth clinic on the driving range in July 2003. The Kornwestheim facility is undergoing an interior and exterior renovation to improve what has been termed the finest U.S. military course in Europe.

customers dry on those rainy German days.

One major change will improve customers' non-golfing time at the club. "We are purchasing four flat-screen TVs and an AFN decoder to allow for special functions in conjunction with the major golf tournaments and NFL football."

In the midst of all these improvements, shoppers and golfers can still take advantage of a wealth of special sales and promotions.

Here's an idea of what to look for when visiting the course:

February

- Golfers can play unlimited holes for the nine-hole fee. This offer is good all day long during the week and on weekends before noon. (Golfers must be ID cardholders to take advantage of this special deal.)
- Save 15 percent on all Callaway Metalwoods and 30 percent on assorted gloves.

March

- The course's annual membership drive is March 19, 4 to 6:30 p.m., in the Swabian Special Events Center. Those who register during this special event receive a 10-percent dis-

Improvement highlights

- ♦ Almost 100-percent increase in the size of the pro shop
- ♦ Addition of four flat-screen televisions and an AFN decoder
- ♦ Installation of new carpet, walls and ceiling in pro shop
- ♦ New doors and windows in pro shop
- ♦ New lounge area on restaurant patio
- ♦ Extension of overhead awning on restaurant patio
- ♦ Improved irrigation system on course

count on 2004 membership dues.

- The Callaway sale continues with major markdowns.

- Selected apparel will be reduced up to 30 percent.

- There will be free snacks and drinks, plus a drawing for top-of-the-line merchandise at 6 p.m.

April

- Pick your own four-person team for the opening day scramble April 10. A 20- to 5-percent handicap system will be used to even out the teams.

- The scramble entry fee is \$20 for members, \$30 for non-member ID cardholders and \$50 for guests.

- The day begins with a shotgun start at 9:30 a.m. and entry includes green fees, prizes and a buffet lunch. The entry fees must be paid in advance at the pro shop.

- Golfers may sign up individually and do not need an established handicap.

- Stop by the pro shop for the Golfers Day Sale April 10. Celebrate the anniversary of the first PGA championship by purchasing new equipment at a discount. All items will be marked down by at least 10 percent.

- The Moonlight Scramble – a nine-hole tournament featuring glow-in-the-dark balls – is April 30, starting at dusk. The \$25 entry fee includes green fees, supplies, prizes and snacks.

For information, directions or a tee time call the Stuttgart Golf Course at 07141-879-151.

Panzer Youth Services swaps spaces with SAS



Sean Kutz, 11, shoots a game of pool at the recently-moved Panzer Youth Services. The YS and School Age Services traded places to give SAS more room for incoming members.

Story & photo by Melanie Casey

Panzer Youth Services and School Age Services have switched places.

The change was made to make room for incoming SAS students and to enhance YS programs, said Derek Morris, Panzer YS lead programmer.

The switch means the YS now has three separate rooms: one with a bank of computers for doing homework, one with a pool table and jukebox and one with a large-screen TV and kitchen.

The new YS also features modern furniture; more life skills and leadership opportunities; improved fitness and health options; and enhanced mentoring, intervention and education support services.

"The kids like it better over here," Morris said.

The Panzer YS is now in building 3166; SAS is in building 3163.

For more information call 431-2568/civ. 07031-15-568.